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P-3724-2-F1-C2

B2 polyester amide, said outer cover layer having a modulus in the range of about 1,000 to about 30,000 psi and a Shore D hardness of 64 or less.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1 to 6 are currently pending, and claim 6 has been amended.

The Office Action mailed December 18, 2001 addressed Claims 1 to 6. Claims 1 to 6 were rejected.

A response and terminal disclaimer were previously submitted on January 8, 2002, and a duplicate copy of the response was submitted on June 24, 2002.

In a telephonic interview with the Examiner on September 25, 2002, Examiner Gorden requested that claim 6 be amended to include the Shore D hardness of both the inner and outer cover layers. Per the Examiner's request, claim 6 has been amended to include Shore D hardness values. Additionally, the specification has been amended to recite the preferred Shore D hardness of the outer cover layer for non-ionomeric elastomers, as well as the flexural modulus of non-ionomeric elastomers. Support for this amendment may be found in the original claims filed in a parent application, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/556,237, filed on November 9, 1995. A copy of the original claims in the parent application was faxed to Examiner Gorden, per her request, on September 25, 2002.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney if it is deemed that a telephone conversation will hasten prosecution of the application.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of each of the presently rejected claims, claims 1 to 6. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1 to 6, the claims currently pending.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN

Customer No. 24492
Phone: (413) 322-2937

Date: September 26, 2002

By: Michelle Bugbee
Michelle Bugbee, Reg. No. 42,370
Spalding Sports Worldwide
Attorney for Applicant
425 Meadow Street
P.O. Box 901
Chicopee, MA 01021-0901

cc: Richard M. Klein, Esquire (SLD 2 0035-3-3-1-1(II))

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES
IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning at page 24, line 23 has been replaced with the following rewritten paragraph:

Other soft, relatively low modulus non-ionomeric thermoplastic elastomers may also be utilized to produce the outer cover layer as long as the non-ionomeric thermoplastic elastomers produce the playability and durability characteristics desired without adversely effecting the enhanced spin characteristics produced by the low acid ionomer resin compositions. Preferably, the non-ionomeric thermoplastic elastomers have a Shore D hardness of 64 or less and a flexural modulus of from about 1,000 to about 30,000 psi. These include, but are not limited to thermoplastic polyurethanes such as: Texin[®] thermoplastic polyurethanes from Mobay Chemical Co. and the Pellethane[®] thermoplastic polyurethanes from Dow Chemical Co.; Ionomer/rubber blends such as those in Spalding U.S. Patents 4,986,545; 5,098,105 and 5,187,013; and, Hytrel[®] polyester elastomers from DuPont and [pebax] Pebax[®] polyesteramides from Elf Atochem S.A.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6. (TWICE AMENDED) A multi-layer golf ball comprising:

a spherical core:

an inner cover layer molded over said spherical core to form a spherical intermediate ball, said inner cover layer having a Shore D hardness of 60 or greater and comprising an ionomeric resin having no more than 16% by weight of an alpha, beta-unsaturated carboxylic acid and having a modulus of from about 15,000 to about 70,000 psi;

an outer cover layer molded about said spherical intermediate ball to form a multi-layer golf ball, the outer layer comprising a non-ionomeric elastomer selected from the group consisting of polyester elastomer, polyester, polyether polyurethane and

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polyester amide, said outer cover layer having a modulus in the range of about 1,000 to about 30,000 psi and a Shore D hardness of 64 or less.

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